

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. The price of gasoline has spiked up \$2 since the Democrats took control of the Congress in just January 2007. Americans want Democrats and Republicans to work together to find commonsense solutions to the skyrocketing cost of gasoline.

The United States must become energy self-sufficient. Oil, gas, coal, nuclear, solar, and wind, all of it. To bring down the price of gasoline, we must focus on increasing America's energy supply. Congress needs to act now to increase exploration and boost America's refinery capability.

Americans are ready for action. They want an up-or-down vote on energy independence. A Democrat aide is quoted in *The Hill* newspaper as saying, "Right now, our strategy on gas prices is drive small cars and wait for the wind."

If those are their only ideas, then, as the astronaut said when they were in orbit, Houston, we have a problem.

THIS CONGRESS HAS A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF IN SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, nobody can dispute that this Congress has a record to be proud of in support of our troops and our Nation's veterans. When we learned of the disgraceful treatment of our servicemen and women at Walter Reed, we took immediate action to provide the funding and oversight necessary to hire more case workers and improve the setting and treatment for our brave wounded warriors.

We acted quickly and decisively to provide the largest funding increase in the 78-year history of the VA, and we provided for increased screening and treatment of traumatic brain injury at every VA health care facility in this country.

We modernized and increased the benefits for the GI bill, and we provided additional loans and capital for small business owners who serve our Nation through the Guard and Reserve.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a record to be proud of in supporting our troops and assisting our Nation's veterans.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

(Mr. KELLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the serious problem of childhood obesity. Two out of three adults in the United States are overweight. One out of three children are overweight. Childhood obesity rates have tripled since 1980.

We're now seeing children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and depression.

I approach this subject with a great deal of optimism and hope as someone who has lost 100 pounds over the past year. I have seen firsthand the power of healthy habits. As parents, experts tell us that there are three healthy habits our children should follow every day. First, never skip breakfast; second, play outside 1 hour a day; third, eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

The good news is that no matter what has happened in the past, all of our kids can enjoy healthy and happy lives in the future.

FREE AMERICA'S OIL

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Americans all over the country want us to do something about gas prices, and every Member in this House wants us to do something about gas prices, too. The Republicans have one strategy. It would bring relief at the pump about 20 years from now, a couple of pennies a gallon. That's their approach.

Democrats have a different approach. We want to free America's oil. We can release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We now have 700 million barrels of oil in that. We don't need them. We can drive the price down in the market. We can force the gas companies, the energy companies, as we have tried to do already, to drill on the 68 million acres worth of leases they already own to produce oil.

Finally, we can open up the 23-million-acre Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve area where there are proven oil reserves and where they are eligible for drilling right now. We have the tools at our disposal immediately to drive down gas prices. We ought to take advantage of them.

Free America's oil.

IRAQ URANIUM SHIPMENT NOW IN SAFE HANDS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, more good news out of Iraq. The AP recently reported that U.S. forces, in cooperation with Iraqi authorities, have just completed a top secret operation that involved shipping 550 metric tons of uranium yellowcake out of Iraq from a cache discovered there. This stockpile of concentrated natural uranium, which is a seed material for higher-grade uranium enrichment, was shipped out of Iraq aboard U.S. cargo planes, then shipped across two oceans, finally arriving in Canada where it will be used by a Canadian firm for nuclear power.

The operation was an important step in ridding Iraq of the last vestiges of Saddam Hussein's one-time nuclear program, and it removed the uranium from the possibility of falling into the hands of insurgents or smugglers crossing into Iran to sell it for use in producing nuclear weapons. This issue certainly has not received much attention in the mainstream press, but it is important news the American people should know.

THE THREE E'S TO GAS RELIEF: EXPLORE, ELIMINATE, AND ENCOURAGE ALTERNATIVES

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good morning, Madam Speaker. And you know, I have been listening to the complaints by the Republicans about gas prices, but with two oil men in the White House, is it any wonder that oil per barrel has gone from \$30 dollars to almost \$150 driving gas prices through the roof? The question is, what are we going to do about it? And I would say it's the three E's.

The first "E" is explore and extract from the 68 million acres that are under lease today in the United States. That's more oil than anything up in Alaska or in ANWR. So let's explore and extract.

The second "E" is to eliminate the gouging and the speculating and the hoarding that's going on in the marketplace.

And the third "E," the most important "E," is encourage alternatives and efficiency. We cannot be hooked to one commodity forever. We've learned our lesson. It's time to pursue alternatives. So this democratic Congress is doing just that, those three E's: exploring, eliminating, and encouraging alternatives.

OPEN UP AMERICAN SOURCES OF OIL SUPPLY

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, we hear a lot about energy. I know I do as well. And the one thing that we know is that we're at a refreshing point of clarity in the energy debate. The reason for that is because the Democrat response has now become very clear.

A leadership aide said this week that the Democrat plan is to have the American people drive small cars and wait for the wind. That is one plan. If the Democrats want the American people to drive less and pay more, that's one plan.

Another plan that the Republicans have been pushing is to make sure that we open up Americans sources of supply. Our goal is to see the American people paying \$2 a gallon or less. It's entirely possible. Congress created this